

SAINT JOHN XXIII PARISH

Pastor: (Rev) Simon deGale; *Secretary:* Ms Hayde Ayala
To Donate Online to St JXXIII go to: <https://community.archtoronto.org/page.aspx?pid=415>
Office: 416-429-4000; *Hours:* Monday-Friday 9AM-3PM
Email: saintjohnxx_iiiparish@outlook.com. *Website:* <http://saintjohnxxiiiparish.ca/>
ShareLife: <https://www.sharelife.org/Public/Home.aspx>



Sunday Mass

Sat Vigil Mass 5:15PM / Sun Mass 9AM, 12:15PM & 5:30PM.
(Weekdays: Mon, Wed, Fri 7PM; Tues, Thurs, Sat 9AM)

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on the second Saturday of the month at 11AM and third Sunday of the month at 1:30PM. Preparation session is required.

Reconciliation (confession)

Before all Sun Masses/Sat Vigil Mass and the Wed Mass or by appointment. Confessional is in Adoration Chapel.

Anointing of the Sick

At any time by appointment. In case of emergency, please ask hospital for Catholic priest. Or see Fr Simon.

Marriage: See Fr Simon before setting a date.

RCIA

If you know someone who wishes to become Catholic speak to priest.

Catholic Cemeteries:

Head Office: 416-733-8544

LENT BEGINS THIS WEEK
Ash Wednesday Is This Wednesday
 Obligatory Day Of Fast & Abstinence For Catholics
(See Inside Bulletin For Regulations)

Mass with distribution of Ashes:
 School Mass: 10:35AM
 Parish Mass: 7PM

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH
 "The Creed"

"I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH"
 THE CHURCH IN THE PLAN OF GOD

147. What does the word Church mean?

The word Church refers to the people whom God calls and gathers together from every part of the earth. They form the assembly of those who through faith and Baptism have become children of God, members of Christ, and temples of the Holy Spirit.

148. Are there other names and images with which the Bible speaks about the Church?

In Sacred Scripture we find many images which bring out various complementary aspects of the mystery of the Church. The Old Testament favors those images that are bound to the people of God. The New Testament offers images that are linked to Christ as the Head of this people which is his Body. Other images are drawn from pastoral life (sheepfold, flock, sheep), from agriculture (field, olive grove, vineyard), from construction (dwelling place, stone, temple), and from family life (spouse, mother, family).

149. What is the origin and the fulfillment of the Church?

The Church finds her origin and fulfillment in the eternal plan of God. She was prepared for in the Old Covenant with the election of Israel, the sign of the future gathering of all the nations. Founded by the words and actions of Jesus Christ, fulfilled by his redeeming death and Resurrection, the Church has been manifested as the mystery of salvation by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. She will be perfected in the glory of heaven as the assembly of all the redeemed of the earth.

150. What is the mission of the Church?

The mission of the Church is to proclaim and establish the Kingdom of God begun by Jesus Christ among all peoples. The Church constitutes on earth the seed and beginning of this salvific Kingdom.

151. In what way is the Church a mystery?

The Church is a mystery in as much as in her visible reality there is present and active a divine spiritual reality which can only be seen with the eyes of faith.

152. What does it mean to say that the Church is the universal sacrament of salvation?

This means that she is the sign and instrument both of the reconciliation and communion of all of humanity with God and of the unity of the entire human race.

*The Church: People Of God,
 Body Of Christ, Temple Of The Spirit*

LENT: DEVOTIONS
Stations of the Cross
 Every Friday of Lent
 Begins this Friday immediately after the 7PM Mass
Holy Hour
 Every Sunday of Lent
 4—5PM

TOTUS TUUS RETURNS

*Dear Parents Please Call Office & Register
 Your Child for Totus Tuus 2020.*

Dates: Aug 9-14 / **Cost:** \$10/for the week/per child payable week prior to Aug 9. / **Day Prgrm:** kids entering grades 1-6 in the Fall. / **Eveng Prgrm:** youth entering grades 7-12 in the Fall.

**THE WISDOM OF
 POPE, SAINT JOHN XXIII**

"Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do"

**CELEBRATE YOUR MARRIAGE WITH A
 WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
 WEEKEND!**

Celebrate your love and take a fresh look at your marriage!

April 24-26, 2020

Spend a very special weekend together. A Weekend of discovery...a lifetime of love! Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a weekend getaway that helps married couples rediscover themselves as individuals and as a couple. The Weekend format helps couples communicate openly and honestly without group sharing, therapy or marriage counselling.

Upcoming Weekend: April 24-26, 2020 - Four Points Sheraton (Argentia Road), Mississauga, ON

For more information and application, please go to www.wwme.org or contact:

Gerard & Marge McCauley at gerard.marge@rogers.com or (905) 792-1925.

OUR REFUGEE FAMILY

Donations

GTA Iraqi Community:
 \$5,000; Parishioners
 \$12,026.15; Parish
 Parish Funds: \$500
Total: \$46,300.00



\$5,000/Anonymous:
 & Parish Fundraisers:
 Bequests: \$23,773.85;
 (processing fees)

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon, February 24, 7PM:
+Francis Attar

Tues, February 25, 9AM:
+Jimmy Emmanuel

Wed, Feb 26: 7 PM: ASH WEDNESDAY
Thanksgiving of Irene Worobec

Thurs, February 27, 9AM:
+Felisa Tolentino

Fri, February 28, 7PM
Thanksgiving: Marilyn e³ Nonito Baldemor

Sat, February 29, 9AM
+Oscar Gendrano

Saturday, February 29
 5:15PM: *+Louis Comeau*

Sunday, March 1
 9AM: *Intention of Irina Zolotov*
 12:15PM: *The Parishioners*
 5:30PM: *+Joseph Attar*

VIGIL CANDLES

Saturday, Feb 29—Friday, March 6
Sanctuary Tabernacle: Souls in Purgatory
Chapel Tabernacle:

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK & SHUT-INS

Call parish office and let us know—416-429-4000

CHALICE CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

Next Collection Sunday, Feb 23

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Need Prayer Help?

Call Beth: 416-467-6492. Intention will be emailed out to this prayer community. Only first name & intention will be shared.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Last Sunday's Offering—\$2466.

To break even weekly—\$3,000 needed.

SPECIAL THANKS

Donation

To Denise Carlos for the gift of \$5,000. to StJXXIII.

**SACRAMENTS OF
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFESSION**

Second Test

Month of February/March

Call office for appointment with Fr Simon when child knows the material.

Sunday Mass

Confirmandi attendance at Mass every Sunday is a sign that you are ready to receive God, the Holy Spirit, in a new and deeper way.

VOCATIONS

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Do you feel called to help people get closer to God? If you think God is calling you to be a, priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFIRMATION

Mass & Stations of the Cross

This Friday, Feb 28 at 7PM

Parents & Sponsors Meeting with Fr Simon

Wednesday, March 11 at 7:30PM

Session 5

Wednesday, March 18: 7PM Mass & 7:30—9PM Session

UPCOMING PARISH YOUTH GROUPS EVENTS

All Are Welcome

Fri, Feb 28, from 6 - 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall. (Lesson)
 Fri, March 6: 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall. (Social)
 Fri, March 13: 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall. (Lesson)
 Fri March 20: 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall. (Lesson)
 Fri, March 27: 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall. (Social)

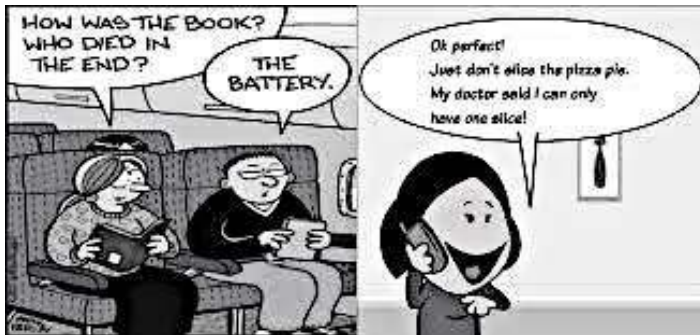
**BEING A GOOD STEWARD OF
GOD'S GIFTS**

Sunday, February 23

God says to all of us "be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." The Second Vatican Council teaches us that we can reach holiness by gratefully acknowledging the gifts God has given us and cooperating with God in giving these gifts back for the service of the Church. Therefore, let us take some time to reflect on how we can become better stewards in our parish community so that we may move closer, through God's grace, towards holiness.

SMILE

You: Teacher!
 Teacher: Yes?
 You: Would You Punish
 Me For
 Something
 I Didn't Do?
 Teacher: Of
 Course Not.
 You: I Didn't Do
 My Homework.



COME AND SEE WEEKEND

Friday, March 13 (begins at 7:00 p.m.) to Sunday, March 15 (ends at 1:30 p.m.), at St. Augustine's Seminary.

Inviting single Catholic men 17 years and older, to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Jesus Christ; leading to a better discernment of God's call for their lives. Time for prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples as a Catholic priest. Register online at www.vocationstoronto.ca. Registrants 17 years old require parental consent.

For more information, please contact (the Parish Priest) or the Office of Vocations at: 416 968 0997; email: vocations@archtoronto.org

DVD LENDING LIBRARY

Please Return DVDs

Do you have a DVD at home which you have forgotten to return? Lent it out? Please get them back! Many of the DVDs have been missing for too long.

UPCOMING LENTEN MISSION

St John XXIII Parish

Preacher: Fr Francis Ching, Companions of the Cross

"Growing in Partnership with Christ."

"We will focus on living a responsible discipleship, fighting vices and growing in virtues" March 29 to April 1, 2020

Fr Francis is returning to lead us in this parish mission and the above is his theme for this mission.

2020 LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY

9AM, Saturday March 9

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

255 Front St. W., Toronto

The theme of this year's rally is "JESUS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD." Featuring inspired talks by: Ralph Martin; Christy Dupuis; Monsignor Gregory N. Smith; and keynote speaker Fr. James Mallon. An adult High Mass (with Sunday readings) will be celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins; a youth Mass (with Sunday readings); a separate youth event with great music, dynamic talks and inspirational skits (ages 13-18).
 COST: \$25 for adults, \$15 for youth; CONTACT: Catholic Renewal Ministries; PHONE: (647) 243-9441
 EMAIL: contact@ljhr.ca; WEBSITE: www.ljhr.ca

30TH ANNUAL ORDINANDI DINNER

Tuesday, March 3 at 6:15PM

Pearson Convention Centre

2638 Steeles Ave. E., Brampton

Tickets are selling faster than ever this year! Be sure to order soon. Meet and honour the Ordinandi of St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary who with God's grace will be ordained to the priesthood this coming spring.

CONTACT: Mario Biscardi PHONE: 416-300-4154

EMAIL: mariobiscardi@sympatico.ca

ORDER FORM: <http://bit.ly/OrdinandiDinner2020>

PRAY FOR THE HOLY FATHER, POPE FRANCIS', FEBRUARY MISSION INTENTION

Human Trafficking

For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

DO YOU OR DOES A LOVED ONE EXPERIENCE SAME-SEX ATTRACTION?

Courage and *EnCourage* provide spiritual support and pastoral guidance in full accordance with authentic Catholic teaching on homosexuality and chastity. For more information on our meetings and events, see contact info below:

EnCourage: Spiritual support for family and friends of those who experience same-sex attraction; faithful to Church teaching on chastity. *Chaplain:* Fr Eric Rodrigues *tel:* 416-928-5094; *email:* encouragetoronto@yahoo.com

Courage: Spiritual support for adults who experience same-sex attraction and wh desire to develop a life of interior chastity n uno with Christ.

Chaplain: Fr Kevin Belgrave; *tel:* 416928-5094; *email:* coragetoronto@yahoo.ca; **All inquiries are confidential.**

SUGGESTIONS FOR LENT

Don't Try To Do All—Pick What Is Achievable

- Attend the Lenten Mission at St.JXXIII: March 30—April 1
- Make a commitment to read the Sunday scriptures before you go to Mass.
- Try a new spiritual practice. Sign up for an hour of Eucharistic Adoration. Sign up for a silent retreat or spend at least one hour in silent meditation each weekend.
- Pick one type of expenditure that you'll "fast" from during Lent, and then give the money you would usually spend to a local charity.
- Take something on: 40 days of letter writing (Lent is 40 days long), or 40 acts of kindness, or 40 phone calls to the important people in your life.
- When you first sit down in front of your computer at work, or at the very end of your workday, try a 10-minute guided prayer from Sacred Space based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius.
- Go to a weekday Mass one day during the week. Many parishes offer them early in the morning, at noon, or after work.
- If you don't have a crucifix in your apartment or house, buy a simple one and put it in your bedroom.
- Read the entire Gospel of Mark in one sitting. As the shortest Gospel, it is the most concise story of Jesus' life, and the cross, a central Lenten symbol, plays an even more prominent role than in the other Gospels.
- Attend the Stations of the Cross somewhere. Many parishes offer these during Lent and often on Fridays. Or check out Busted Halo's Virtual Stations of the Cross.
- Unplug from your Smart Phone or turn off your car radio on your commute. The silence may be jarring at first, but you may find that you are able to concentrate better and will be more observant of your surroundings.
- Use a book of daily reflections and keep it by your bed. Local parishes often offer these during Lent.
- Think about a habit that has kept you from being whom God is calling you to be. Consciously give up that habit for Lent.
- Spend at least one weekend or evening volunteering during Lent. Serve a meal at your local soup kitchen. Visit the elderly. Stock shelves at a food pantry.
- Make a commitment to fast from insensitive, cruel comments about others. So, no gossiping or going down the Twitter rabbit hole.
- As a part of your Lenten almsgiving, make a point to learn more about a particular social issue (immigration, human trafficking, racism, the environment, public education, child poverty). Give money to an organization related to your chosen issue that supports the dignity of the human person.
- Pray for somebody. As you're walking the streets, driving the highways, or sitting in your cubicle at work, pick out a person who appears to be in need and pray for that person. Be mindful of these words, "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle."
- Get to know your neighbours. Introduce yourself, plan a dinner, or bring food to an older person on your block.

—Read the Works of Mercy as Jesus describes them in Matthew 25:31-46. Then put this teaching into practice and choose an act of service you can perform throughout Lent.

—Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Can't remember how? Here's a simple guide: tell the priest it's been a while, and ask him to guide you through it.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

What is Ash Wednesday?

This day marks the beginning of Lent. We attend Mass on this day and receive the Ashes on the forehead as a sign of sorrow for sin and as sign of our intention to become more faithful.

What is Lent?

Lent is the penitential season of the Church's year. It is 40 days of preparation to renew our Baptismal vows on Easter Sunday. During this time we seek closer union with the Lord through increasing the disciplines of fasting, prayer, and giving of alms (charitable giving).

Lenten Fast & Abstinence

Catholics are obligated to Fast & Abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday.

The Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

The required fast on Ash Wed and Good Friday involves eating only one full meal on those days. One or two smaller meals may be taken on those days, but may not total one full meal. The required fast does not allow eating anything between meals.

Abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

Abstinence on these days from meat does not intend the omission of eggs or dairy products.

Age Requirements

"All Catholics who have completed their 14th year are bound by the law of abstinence; all adults are bound by the law of fast up to the beginning of their 60th year.

Fridays of the Year

It is a requirement of our Faith that we abstain from meat on all the Fridays of the year (except on Solemnities) in commemoration of our Saviour's death.

RE-GEN MISSION

The *re-gen* mission of the Archdiocese of Toronto is currently hiring young adults to become chastity or campus missionaries for 15 months starting in June 2020 until August 2021. If you or someone you know would be interested in this great opportunity, please contact Genicia Dabu at regen@ocytoronto.org. You can count our prayers as you discern joining our team!

You can also find this employment opportunity online at www.archtoronto.org/contact-us/employment-opportunities.

To learn more about *re:gen*, visit their website at www.ocytoronto.org/regen.

“Be Perfect. Therefore. As Your Heavenly Father Is Perfect”

Jesus



This Sunday's Readings: *First Reading: Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18—Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy; Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 103: 1–4, 8, 10, 12–13—Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness; Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16–23—Are you not aware that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you; Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:38–48—My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors.*

Background on the Gospel

The last two *opposite statements* offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

Only by God’s grace is this possible, so pray: *“Eternal Father only you can make me perfect; give me your holy light, your wonderful grace to become what you want me to be.”*

GIVING UP WHAT FOR LENT?

Question: I heard the pope asked people to give up cell phones and computer games for Lent. I guess I can understand the games, but cell phones seem important for communicating with other people. Why would he want us to sacrifice that?



Answer: Give up a cell phone for Lent? Actually I kind of like that idea! I remember when I first got a cell phone about 12 years ago. I had it for about a month and then got rid of it because I didn't like being constantly available. But I did quickly realize that there were many pastoral benefits to this also. So after a few months I reactivated it and have had one ever since.

I would guess that even though most people would never leave home these days without their phone, many may find it somewhat freeing if they accidentally forgot it for a day. Sometimes, in the age of constant communication, we need a little break!

But to your question. I think you may be referring to some of the news articles that came out one year ago when the Holy Father gave an address for the "43rd World Communication Day." In that message he said, "If the desire for virtual connectedness becomes obsessive, it may in fact function to isolate individuals from real social interaction while also disrupting the patterns of rest, silence and reflection that are necessary for healthy human development."



Then, according to various news reports, in March, 2009, there were a number of bishops in Italy who encouraged people to give up texting, computers, social networking

and the like for Lent so as to help people to "detox from the virtual world and get themselves back in touch with themselves." This created a flurry of news reports with titles like, "Thou Shalt not Text Until Easter" and "Stop Texting for Lent."

So what did the pope really say? His comments are very helpful to read in their entirety. He was speaking about the deep desire for friendship and communication that we all have. He also said in that message, "It is in and through our friendships that we grow and develop as humans. For this reason, true friendship has always been seen as one of the greatest goods any human person can experience. We should be careful, therefore, never to trivialize the concept or the experience of friendship. It would be sad if our desire to sustain and develop on-line friendships were to be at the cost of our availability to engage with our families, our neighbours and those we meet in the daily reality of our places of work, education and recreation."

I think that this is a very important message for all of us as we continue in this technological age of social networking and communication. It's true that most people these days rely upon their cell phone for important communication so giving them up may not be possible or helpful. And I don't think this is what the pope was trying to say. Instead, he points out the great benefit of this new age of technology in that address. He acknowledges that the new forms of communication reveal our deep desire to be connected with one another. But he also points out the dangers of becoming too obsessed with these new technologies. Especially when they lead to the loss of face to face communication which can never be replaced with electronics.

NEW PASTOR
June 24, 2020

Who the new pastor will be has not yet been decided—this will be known sometime in May of 2020. *Let us begin praying for him.* If we do this together, he will become a blessing to JXXIII. Date of transfer is June 24, 2020.

PRAYER
Mercy. Ask. Thanksgiving. Adoration.
(M. A. T. A.)

Begin with seeking *Mercy*. / Continue by *Asking* for grace. / Move on to be amazed and *Thankful* for all His gifts. / Finally, Marvel in *Adoration* of His holy light.
(Don't be surprised if your prayer does not follow the above order)

Bamboo Travel & Tours
 Call Marivic
 Flemington Park Plaza
 747 Don Mills Rd., Suite 206A, Toronto, ON
 Tel 416-422-0464
 bambootravelandtours@gmail.com

Paul O'Connor Funeral Home
 1939 Lawrence Avenue East
 416-751-7890

ADORATION OF OUR LORD IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Takes place in the Adoration Chapel

Every Friday: 9AM to evening prayer and 5:40PM. Come for a hour and keep watch others, the Church,



6PM, concludes with Benediction at few minutes or an with the Lord. Pray for your family, yourself.

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